

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 7 and 8 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification and abstract. In addition, independent Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Gates '524. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicants' invention relates to a driving method of a display apparatus, and includes a first drawing step of displaying an image by controlling a display medium on the basis of a signal from first image creation means, and a second drawing step of overwriting a handwritten image on the displayed image by controlling the display medium on the basis of a signal from second image creation means. As amended, in the first drawing step an image is drawn by a reset drive for resetting a previous display image and a writing drive for writing an image, and in the second drawing step the writing drive of a substantially minimum or a substantially maximum luminance is performed without effecting the reset drive only in an area in which the handwritten image is written.

Support for the amendments to Claim 1 can be found, for example, on page 15, line 27, *et. seq.*, of the specification. In accordance with Applicants' invention, a highly effective method of driving a display apparatus can be provided.

The Gates patent relates to addressing schemes for controlling electronically addressable displays. The Office Action asserts, referring to Figures 3A and 3B, that Gates shows a first drawing step and a second drawing step as set forth in Claim 1. The Office Action also asserts that in the first drawing step an image is rewritten by a reset drive for resetting a display state and a writing drive for writing an image, and in the second drawing step the writing drive is performed without effecting the reset drive. In addition, Figures 4A and 4B show individual display elements for displaying a letter “A” (Figure 4A) and letter “B” (Figure 4B). The display elements, or pixels, are classified to reduce the number of pixels that must change state when the display converts from showing a letter “A” to showing a letter “B”.

In contrast to Claim 1 of Applicants’ invention, however, Gates is not read to teach or suggest, among other features, a first drawing step in which an image is drawn by a reset drive for resetting a previous display image and a writing drive for writing an image, and a second drawing step in which the writing drive of a substantially minimum or a substantially maximum luminance is performed without effecting the reset drive only in an area in which the handwritten image is written. In Figures 3A, 3B and 3C of Gates, a negative or positive signal is applied to electrodes 30, 40 of a capsule 20 in order to move particles 50 up or down within a suspending fluid 25. In Figures 4A and 4B, display elements that are common to both letters “A” and “B” can remain active for efficiently performing the conversion. Gates is not understood, however, to use a handwritten image and to perform a writing drive of a substantially minimum or substantially maximum luminance without effecting the reset drive only in an area in which the handwritten image is written.

It is submitted, therefore, that Claim 1 is patentable over Gates.

Claim 7 relates to a driving method that includes a first drawing step and a second drawing step. In the first drawing an image is drawn by a reset drive for resetting a previous display image and a writing drive for writing an image, and in the second drawing step the writing drive of a minimum or a maximum luminance is performed without effecting the reset drive only in an area in which the handwritten image is written.

Claim 8 relates to a display apparatus that includes detection means for detecting handwriting input, and drive means. The drive means effects a first drive in which an image is rewritten by applying a writing voltage after resetting a previous display image when the handwriting input is not detected, and a second drive in which a previous display image is overwritten with a handwriting image by applying only a writing voltage of a minimum or a maximum luminance without effecting resetting only in an area in which the handwriting input is detected.

It is submitted that at least the features in Claims 7 and 8 discussed above serve to further distinguish Applicants' invention over the patent to Gates, which is discussed above.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 7 and 8 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 3, 5 and 6 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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